

Panel 1

Is the Cooperative Financial System Still Relevant?



Scott Sommer
President and Chief Executive Officer
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Scott Sommer is President and Chief Executive Officer of Cornerstone Advisors and brings to Cornerstone more than 15 years of experience in the banking, professional services and technology industries.

As CEO of Cornerstone, Scott's background in strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, growing new markets and technology planning has helped to create leadership and distinctiveness in Cornerstone's consulting practice. An experienced advisor to senior level teams, Scott brings an in-depth understanding of issues faced by financial services clients in today's marketplace. Scott has worked with dozens of banks on engagements focused on strategic planning, CRM, merger assessments and integration, strategic technology planning, and system selection.

Before founding Cornerstone, Scott was President and CEO of Maidstone Consulting Group, a consulting company providing executive management, merger and acquisition, and business development strategy services to technology and professional service companies. Prior to Maidstone, Scott was Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Financial Services Practice at Integrated Information Systems, a publicly traded software development and consulting company. Scott was instrumental in developing the sales and strategic alliance teams at IIS and guided the company through three rounds of equity financing and an initial public offering. Scott began his career practicing law in the areas of mergers and acquisitions and corporate litigation in New York City with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and later with Pollack & Greene.

Scott is a contributing author for *GonzoBanker* and is frequently quoted in industry publications.

Scott received an AB in Political Science and an AB in Economics with honors from Franklin and Marshall College. He received his JD *cum laude* from New York Law School and has been admitted to practice law in New York, Connecticut and Arizona.